

"Jesus and Nicodemus"

John 3:1-21

Part 6

Introduction: Last week in our study we were looking at the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3. Jesus explained that the Son of man had to be lifted up upon the cross because this was the way in which God had determined for sin to be paid for and for the righteous demands of God to be satisfied. It would be the death of Jesus Christ that would satisfy the wrath of God on our behalf. When we stopped last week, we stopped on John 3:16.

Notice John 3:16

In this verse we looked at

1. The Greatest Love.
2. The Greatest Gift.
3. The Greatest Simplicity.
4. The Greatest Security.
5. The Greatest Possession.

There is yet one point we did not consider in this verse.

➤ **The Motivation of God.**

Notice John 3:16

The motivation behind God's plan of salvation is His love. There is not one person in the world who is not loved by God.

Jeremiah 31:3

³ *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

The love spoken of in John 3:16 is "agape" love which is an unconditional love. Let us notice some insight into this love.

"This quality of love is not an emotion but is an action initiated by a willful choice. Agape "speaks of a love which is awakened by a sense of value in an object which causes one to prize it. It springs from an apprehension of the preciousness of an object. It is a

love of esteem and approval. The quality of this love is determined by the character of the one who loves, and that of the object loved."

From this information I want you to see that God loves us not because we are loveable nor is it because of an emotional feeling. He loves us of His own will. He chooses to love us even though we were His enemies. He sees within us great value. Let us notice one point of value that our Lord sees in us.

Ephesians 2:2-7

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

In the ages to come we will be trophies of God's grace, and we shall be on display for all eternity. Just like the heavens declare the glory of God, even beyond that we will show forth the riches of His grace as the bride of Jesus Christ. One of the points of value is that we will show for the grace of God forever.

➤ The Purpose of God

Notice John 3:17

Jesus did not come to condemn us, but He came to save us. It is important to see in this verse that Jesus came to offer forgiveness to the WORLD. Not just the elect as some teach but Jesus came to provide a sacrifice for every person who has ever lived.

Ezekiel 33:11

¹¹ Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

When the Bible tells us that Jesus came to save us there are 3 tenses to our salvation that we need to understand.

➤ **Past - (Justification) We have been saved from the penalty of sin.**

When we trusted in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we were immediately set free from the penalty of sin. We have been justified, which means to be declared righteous. The penalty of sin is the second death which is eternal separation from God.

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

When we were saved, we were no longer in danger of the second death.

Revelation 20:6

⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Romans 3:24

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

- **Present - (Sanctification)** We are being saved from the power of sin as we are being transformed to be more like our Savior.

Romans 6:6-7, 11-12, 17-18

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

⁷ *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

¹¹ *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

¹² *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

¹⁷ *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

¹⁸ *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

Philippians 1:6

⁶ *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

- **Future - (Glorification)** We will be saved from the presence of sin.

Romans 8:19-23

¹⁹ *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*

²⁰ *For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,*

²¹ *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

²² *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

²³ And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

1 John 3:2

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Notice John 3:18

There are several points to see and consider within this verse. First of all, we see that we who know Jesus Christ as our Savior are free of condemnation.

Romans 8:1a

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...

We are covered in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and when we do sin God sees us in His righteousness not in our sin. We are IN CHRIST and there can be no condemnation IN HIM.

Notice John 3:18 again.

The unbeliever is already condemned because he or she stands in their own righteousness and sin. They have not believed on Jesus Christ and they are therefore condemned. This then raises a question asked by many people. "What about people who have never heard of Jesus Christ, are they guilty?" The answer to that question is, "YES" they are guilty because they too have sinned against God. This subject is addressed in Romans 1.

Romans 1:18-20

¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

¹⁹ *Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*

²⁰ *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

Every person is given the knowledge that there is a God. This knowledge comes through creation, conscience and the law written in our hearts.

Romans 2:14-15

¹⁴ For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

¹⁵ Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

The light is shined in every person's life revealing that there is a God, but just to believe in God will not save anyone. They need Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches us that when a sinner responds correctly to the light given to them, God provides someone who can share the Gospel with them.

Acts 8:26-31

²⁶ And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

²⁷ And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

²⁸ Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

³⁰ And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Conclusion:

When God puts it into our heart to go and share the Gospel with someone let us keep in mind it could very well be that it is because the person has responded correctly to the light he or she has been given.